

GUIDELINES FOR THE DISSERTATION PROPOSAL

Formal requirements:

The written proposal, which is required for the presentation of the dissertation project (“Fakultätsöffentliche Präsentation”), should not exceed 15 pages. The text has to be formatted in Times New Roman 12 pt, spacing 1.5. It is followed by a bibliography (2-3 pages, Times New Roman 11 pt, spacing 1).

Content and style

Think of the proposal as a possible introduction to the doctoral thesis. The text should include the following aspects:

- A. Indicate the theological discipline and the specific area in which your project is situated. Explain your personal interest in the topic of your research and in the chosen theological field. In case of a canonical doctorate further: Identify a second discipline, which you choose for specialization. (This discipline will usually be the minor subject of the dissertation defense.) (1-2 pages)
- B. Describe the state of scholarship regarding the topic of your dissertation. Show your familiarity with major and recent literature on your topic and/or the respective field. Identify the aspects that need further research or new interpretation. (3-4 pages)
- C. Develop a particular research question, distinguishing between main and subordinate aspects. Accordingly, propose the preliminary title of your thesis. Explain the innovative character of your thesis and the particular contribution of your research for the larger topic or area. Explain the fitting methods and approaches you will use for conducting your research and responding to the research questions. (2-3 pages)
- D. Give a possible outline of your thesis, e.g. a preliminary table of contents. Describe the length of the individual parts and chapters and relate this to a work plan. Add a financial plan, if applicable. (2-3 pages)
- E. Add a bibliography that covers the most important publications regarding your dissertation topic and the respective field of research. Focus on those publications that may serve as a point of departure or that guide your research or support your argumentation.

➔The focus of the **maximum 10-minute (!) oral presentation** to the doctoral advisory board should be on **point C**.